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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1943 No. 14

R.A.F. will smash Japan

GERMANY is the first on the list for knocking out With Germany off the map, we can develop our full resources against Japan. What we are doing, and will do, to Germany we will do on an even greater scale to Japan

UNDER the terrible punishment, we may expect the Germans to put up an increasingly desperate defence. It would be foolish to deny the possibility that Germany may have new cards up her sleeve, which might prove temporarily inconvenient But, taking a long view, the Germans have neither an escape nor a remedy. That is the situation for Germany to-day as we see it and it will one day be the situation for Japan

BUT when the day comes, it will be even worse for Japan because the United States and Britain will be able to concentrate against Japan not only an even more overwhelming air power, but also all the invaluable experience they have gained from the onslaught against Germany

I KNOW I speak for the whole R.A.F. and I say that we look forward with the keenest anticipation to the day when we can join with our American comrades in applying to Tokyo all the lessons we have learned

Air Marshal Sir WILLIAM WELSH, head of R.A.F. delegation in United States speaking at the Economic Club at Detroit (Michigan), on Monday, November 29

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MILITARY DISASTER FOR JAPAN

"We have achieved unity of command—on land, sea and in the air—that knows how to deliver paralysing attacks. I wish to make a reference to yesterday's report by Tokyo, in which they claim that they have sunk 84 American warships and killed 20,000 American seamen. I emphasize that this is an attempt to cover up what they have lost in the recent few weeks' fighting, which was nothing short of a military disaster for the Japanese, and shows a sense of complete frustration by Japanese military leaders."

—Colonel FRANK KNOX, *United States Secretary to Navy, at a Press Conference on Friday, November 26.*

◆

BOMBING RAIDS ON JAP POSITIONS IN THE PACIFIC

"During the ten days from November 11 heavy bombers made a series of the world's longest bombing raids hitting seven islands in the Gilberts and Marshalls preparatory to landing troops. Liberators repeatedly flew on raids of 1,800 to 2,400 miles completely across water. Some flew 6,000 miles within a week, hitting tiny island targets and returning to their equally tiny bases with the Japanese not shooting down any planes over the targets.

"The purpose of these raids and the coming actions is to harass the Japanese behind the lines. We fly over the enemy's frontal islands and attack the bases from which supplies and reinforcements can be flown to his beleaguered garrisons.

"Our continued purpose will be to hit farther and farther back as our land forces advance. This involves unbelievably long raids and incomparable operating conditions. An extremely fast pace of attack will be kept up in the future keeping the enemy constantly on the defensive, eventually opening a direct channel across the Pacific to Japan."

—Major-General W. H. HALE, *Commanding the 7th U.S.A.A.F. in the South Pacific, on Sunday, November 28.*

◆

ATTAINED NEW HEIGHTS

"The Eighth Army is advancing under conditions considered insuperable. To maintain the advance both Indian and British troops have attained new heights. I am proud of them."

—General MONTGOMERY, *to an Indian Army Observer at Sangro Front in Italy on Thursday, November 25.*

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PEARL HARBOUR

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THE second anniversary of the unprovoked Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour is approaching, and it naturally turns our thoughts to what happened in the Pacific early in the morning of December 7, 1941. The sudden and surreptitious Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, while negotiations were being carried on by Japanese Ambassadors Nomura and Kurusu in Washington, shocked the world. That the Japanese onslaught was long planned and well timed was evident from the fact that the attack on Pearl Harbour was executed more or less simultaneously as the attacks on Midway, Guam and Wake, widely-separated American outpost islands. Kurusu's mission to Washington was intended as a ruse to gain time and take the United States unawares when the fateful blow was struck.

A MONTH earlier, Japan had given an indication of its aggressive intentions. On November 5, 1941, the Japan *Times and Advertiser* enunciated the Japanese terms which the United States must accept, or "face the consequences." This announcement was made two days before Saburo Kurusu left Tokyo for Washington to negotiate a settlement between Japan and the United States.

Japan's terms

THE terms of the Japanese were—

(1) All military and economic aid to Chungking must cease.

(2) China must be left "free to deal with Japan," and Chungking must be advised to make peace with Japan.

(3) Military and economic encirclement of Japan must end.

(4) Japan's "Co-prosperity Sphere" must be acknowledged, and Manchukuo, China and Indo-China, Thailand, the Netherlands Indies and other States and protectorates must be allowed to establish their own political and economic relations with Japan without interference of any kind.

(5) Manchukuo must be recognized; "nobody will undo what has been done there."

(6) The freezing of Japanese and Chinese assets must be ended unconditionally.

(7) Trade treaties must be restored and all restrictions on shipping and commerce ended.

THESE terms were discussed by the Japanese representatives with the United States Government. On November 26, Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, presented a Memorandum on behalf of his Government to the Japanese proposing a basis for settlement. The attitude of the United States Government was summed up in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Section 2 of the Memorandum. The paragraphs run as follows :—

China, the basic issue

"The Government of Japan will withdraw all military, naval, air and police forces from China and from Indo-China."

[See overleaf

"The Government of the United States and the Government of Japan will not support—militarily, politically, economically—any Government or regime in China other than the National Government of the Republic of China, with capital temporarily at Chungking."

IT was clear from the outset that the basic issue was China. On December 2 the question of Indo-China came up for discussion. Reports were received by the United States Government that more Japanese forces were marching into Indo-China and that there was an increase in concentrations of troopships and war materials. The Japanese were asked what this meant. Admiral Nomura merely said that his Government would give the American question "weighty consideration."

Japan's reply to U.S. Memorandum after attack on Pearl Harbour

THE actual Japanese reply to the American Memorandum of November 26 was given on December 7 by their attack on Pearl Harbour, but the formal reply was handed to Mr. Hull, when the attack was actually taking place. The Japanese representatives wanted to see Mr. Cordell Hull at 1-45 p.m. on December 7 and arrived at his office at 2·05. Mr. Cordell Hull received them at 2·20, that is, at 8·50 a.m. Honolulu time. This means that the Japanese reply breaking off the diplomatic negotiations was handed over about an hour after the attack on Pearl Harbour. The United States Secretary of State frankly told the Japanese Ambassador:

"I must say that in all my conversations with you during the last nine months I have never uttered one word of untruth. This is borne out absolutely by the record. In all my fifty years of public service I have never seen a document that was more crowded with infamous falsehoods and distortions—infamous falsehoods and distortions on a scale so huge that I never imagined until to-day that any Government on this planet was capable of uttering them."

Two years ago and now

THESE incidents in Japan's career of perfidy recall themselves to our mind, as the war in the Pacific approaches its second year. On December 7, 1941, Japan dealt what seemed to be a crippling blow to American naval power in the Pacific. On December 7, 1943, Japan stands relegated to a wholly defensive position. The series of victories gained by the Allies in "island-hopping," have definitely shown the dominant position they have gained in regard to naval and air strength. The present situation has been well summed up by Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, formerly Commander-in-Chief of the United States Asiatic Fleet and now on active service in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In a special commentary on the second anniversary of Pearl Harbour, Admiral Yarnell says:

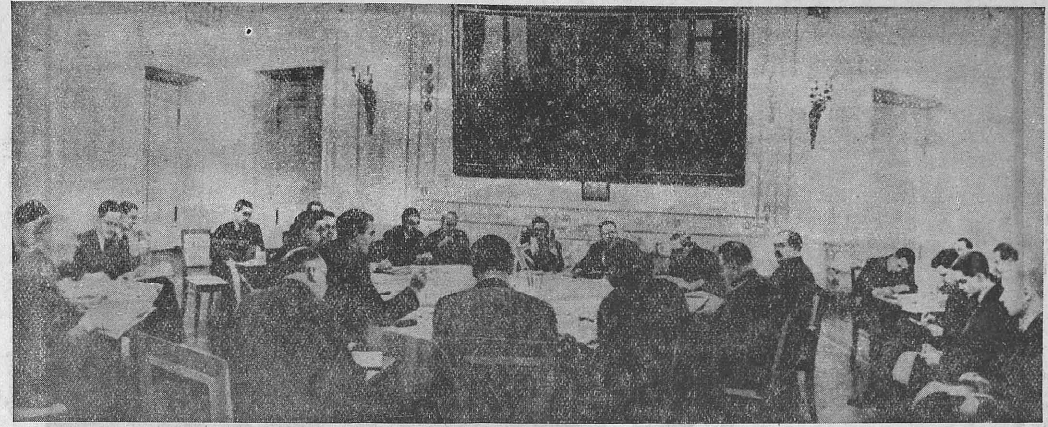
"The United Nations have now started their offensive in the Pacific. Here the very extent and number of the sectors which Japan has occupied and must now defend work to her great disadvantage. The enemy must be prepared to meet blows at any point of the great perimeter of her outer defence line. Her forces must be dispersed. The United Nations can concentrate for attack, whenever and wherever they choose."

Japan, second in the list of priority

THIS does not however mean that the defeat of Japan will be an easy matter. Admiral Yarnell points out that geographically Japan is strong and her island outposts are well fortified and manned. She has got the advantage of interior lines of communication, through which reinforcements can be sent quickly. But the combined strength of the United Nations will all be directed in a fuller measure on Japan after the elimination of Germany. Addressing the St. Andrew's Society at Philadelphia on November 30, Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador in the United States, stated "There is no doubt that in this war we have to deal separately with Japan, and neither your people nor mine will quit on that job." He added that they should go on with it until they broke Japan's power and put her safely beyond the temptation of dominating all Asia. This is the first time that Japan has tried to carry through her aggressive imperialist ambitions on a very wide scale, unlike Germany which tried it twice, and failed. Japan must be taught such a lesson that she will not dare repeat the experiment again at any future time.

WHEN that time comes, as come it will, Japan will feel the terrific impact of the freedomloving world in a manner which she has never felt before, which will bring about her downfall and annihilation as an aggressive power in the Far East.

MOSCOW CONFERENCE IN SESSION



This historic picture shows the 3-Power Conference in session in the Spiridonierka, in Moscow. Seated round the table, beginning with Mr. Eden and reading clockwise are:—Mr. Eden; Mr. William Strang; Mr. Averell Harriman; Mr. Cordell Hull; Mr. Hackworth; M. Litvinov; M. Vyshinsk; M. Molotov; Marshal Voroshilov; General Sir Hastings Ismay; Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr. Picture on wall shows signing of Anglo-Soviet Alliance in 1942.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Soviet Capture of Gomel—Hitler's Winter Line cracks

The capture of Gomel, the great German bastion in White Russia, is yet another of the series of successes which the Red Army has been scoring in its onward march towards the old Polish frontier. Gomel which had been in German hands from the middle of August 1941 is a large regional and industrial centre with an important railway junction, a number of chemical concerns, a large match factory and one of the biggest sheet-glass producing centres of Russia. It is the junction of two railways to Poland, one running west in the direction of Brest-Litovsk and the other northwest through Minsk to Vilna and thence to Lithuania. A few miles west of Gomel is the main Leningrad-Vitebsk-Zhitomir-Odessa trunk railway line.

The importance of the capture of Gomel lies in the fact that it completely splits von Kluge's army of White Russia from von Manstein's army of the Ukraine. It is stated that the Red Army started its new White Russian offensive north of Gomel so suddenly that the Germans were caught completely unawares. Soviet troops are now steadily forging ahead and swift motorised forces of the White Russian Army Group are rushing through a 30 mile gap torn in the German defences between Mogilev and Gomel pursuing the retreating Germans. General von Kluge's forces who had evidently dug themselves in for winter were turned out of their deep belts of warm, snug, and well-equipped dug-outs and are being chased into the swamps and forests where Soviet guerillas are waiting for them. Thus Hitler's winter line has been cracked by a powerful and well timed Soviet blow.

* * * * *

Korosten and Zhitomir—Moves and Counter-moves

In the great battle of the Kiev salient the German General von Manstein seems to be hoping that his attacks against the southern flank of the Russian bulge will save his position, and so he has increased them in force and extent. He wants to effect a break-through further north near Korosten, one of the most important railway junctions in the western Ukraine, which is about a 100 miles northwest of Kiev.

It is interesting to examine briefly at this stage the moves and the counter-moves of the Russians and the Germans. The German defeats at Korosten and Rechista, 150 miles above Korosten (which opened up the western approaches to Gomel) were followed by their re-capture of Zhitomir which was captured by the Russians only six days earlier. But the Russian evacuation of Zhitomir coincided with the renewal of the Russian drive towards Nikopol in the south and the crossing of the Dnieper near Cherkassy.

Why did the Germans launch heavy counter-attacks against Zhitomir? They did so because they wanted to thwart the dangerous progress of the Russian drive aimed westwards from Kiev in the general direction of the Bug and the Dniester. Such a drive further threatened the 150,000 German soldiers who were within the Dnieper bend. It was only natural that von Manstein should concentrate powerful reserves to hold the Russian thrust from Zhitomir towards Berdichev, which is an important railway junction on the main supply line to the Dnieper bend. Zhitomir's only connection with the rear of the Red Army was the highway to Kiev, and the German forces based on Berdichev about 20 miles to the south cut the highway and forced the Russians to evacuate Zhitomir.

* * * * *

Russian Strategy—Diversionary Attacks and Dangerous Thrusts

One typical characteristic of Russian strategy emerges from the series of moves and counter-moves. If the Red Army finds any considerable enemy resistance in one sector it diverts its attention to another. For instance the Germans have held up the Russian salient threatening their Dnieper forces from the direction of Berdichev in the north; so the Russians have started major operations against these forces in the direction of Nikopol and Cherkassy in the south.

In this connection it is pertinent to point out that the battle of Nikopol is intended not merely as a threat to the German forces in the Dnieper sack, but also for Nikopol itself which contains the richest manganese mines which provide the Germans with 50 to 60 per cent of all the manganese that they can get.

Latest reports speak of a large-scale Russian offensive at the northern approaches to the Crimea. This seems to be part of the Soviet grand strategy of combing diversionary attacks with direct dangerous thrusts.

[Since the above was written, Korosten has been evacuated by the Russians.]

—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

"I SAW SINGAPORE FALL"

By MRS. IDA KINLOCH

Mrs. IDA KINLOCH.—Mrs. Kinloch is seen wearing the same shirt she actually escaped in from Malaya.

In this article the author gives a vivid description of the fall of Singapore, and its tragic consequences. She rightly says that the Battle of Malaya began not on 8th December 1941 but several years ago. Mrs. Kinloch mentions how the seeds of the Fifth Column activity were sown in Malaya over a period of years with great care and deliberation and the nefarious schemes of the Japanese were well laid and planned. Reference is also made to the amazing courage and fortitude of the gallant defenders. The writer points out that indiscriminate bombing of Singapore began some hours before the actual declaration of war by Japan.

THE Battle of Malaya with its tragic consequences in the loss of the Naval Base and Singapore Island began, not on 8th December 1941 but several years ago.

When I first went to live in Malaya in 1925 there were comparatively few Japanese in the City of Singapore. A few years later they commenced operating iron mines in Trengganu and Kelantan, and tin mines in other States. Gradually these activities expanded. They acquired rubber estates throughout the peninsula and the numbers of Japanese employees which were brought into the colony increased rapidly. Numerous barges and tugs operated all round the coast of Malaya, Sumatra and Java in connection with these activities. In Sumatra they worked huge bauxite mines and used their own sea craft for export purposes. Except for scattered native fishing stakes, almost the entire fishing industry was in the hands of the Japanese. Large fishing fleets operated all over the archipelago. These fishing boats were not small sailing craft as one might suppose, but large powerful motor vessels, capable of covering hundreds of miles and remaining at sea for several months at a time. They were maintained in first-class condition. It is no exaggeration to say that there was not a square yard of sea from the Indian Ocean to the South Seas which was unknown to them.

NEFARIOUS JAPANESE SCHEMES

As their population increased, so Japanese trade expanded. Whole Japanese districts sprang up in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and other big towns in Malaya. Shops with sufficient business to keep a couple of assistants busy, would have in addition, 3 or 4 " apprentices." These were well-educated men who had served their military training and whose business it was to learn the language of Malaya, improve their English and make themselves familiar with the country and its inhabitants. Japanese Government controlled schools were opened throughout the country. Hospitals and clinics were opened. They spread themselves into native villages making friends with the village people and among the kampongs on the shores of the numerous islands. Medical treatment was willingly administered free, free clinics were opened, and in fact, everything was done to win the friendship and confidence of the Malayas and Chinese. The Japanese society, of which every Japanese was expected to be a member, was a most powerful organization. The cunning machinations of their nefarious schemes were well planned.

Then came the treacherous occupation of Indo-China. There is no doubt their activities in Thailand were on a similar scale to those of Malaya; so it is not to be wondered that the people of this country surrendered after only a few hours' resistance.

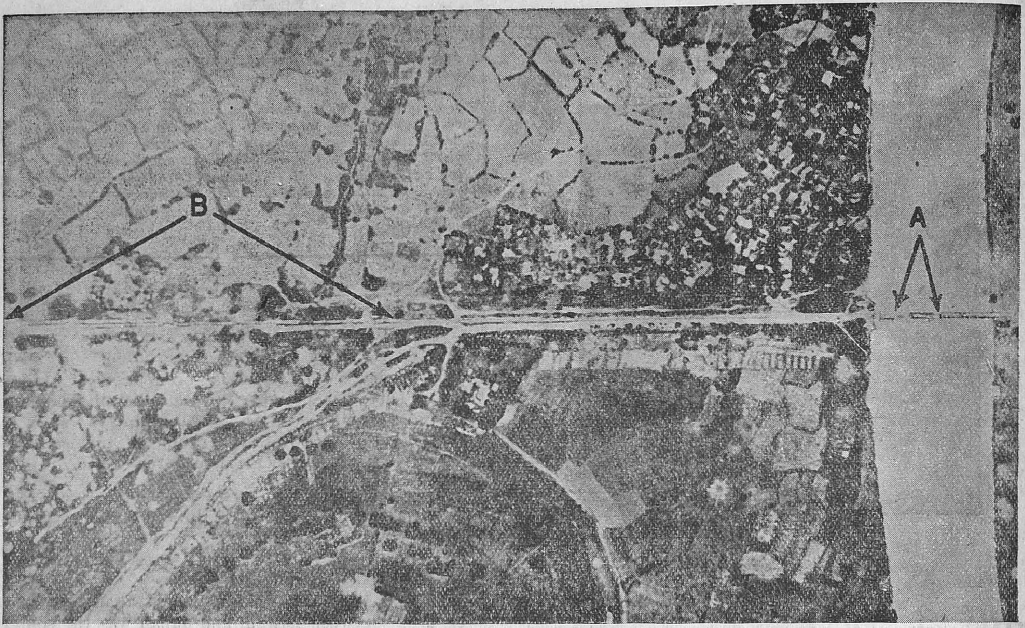
Thus over a period of years and with great care and deliberation, were the seeds of Fifth Column Activity sown in Malaya.

INDISCRIMINATE BOMBING

The first intimation in Singapore that war had broken out between Britain and Japan was the sound of bomb explosions, ack-ack fire and the wailing of sirens at 4-10 a.m. on Monday, 8th December. Thinking it was a practice and protesting at the lack of humour on the part of those who had made such hare-brained arrangements, we hastened into our slippers and dressing-gowns and went down into the garden. It was a lovely clear, star-dotted sky and the city streets were fully lit. Suddenly there was a tremendous explosion near at hand. It was too realistic to be merely practice, especially when we saw tracer bullets from our Bofors guns soar into the sky. It was not until dawn and the morning newspapers arrived, that we learned war had been declared between Great Britain and Japan. We had experienced our first air-raid some hours before this declaration and over 200 innocent people had been killed or wounded. Bombs had been dropped indiscriminately on the sleeping city, and by evening we heard that the Japanese had struck at Malaya through Kota Bharu on the north-east. Their advance spread out fanwise—their infiltration tactics are known to everyone. How thoroughly they had prepared for the attack on Malaya was evident by the fact that from the first day, they started circulating their own Japanese-Malayan currency notes. Compact army kits had been carefully worked out. Boots were of rubber with canvas tops, open shorts and short trousers. Each kit included a 1-lb. bag of partly cooked rice which swelled when soaked in water for a short while, ½ lb. sugar, vitamin pills to take the place of vegetables, quinine tablets and anti-dysentery pills. The Japanese standard of living is much lower than our own, and he was able therefore, to live on these rations for approximately 4 days to a week.

CITY OF THE DEAD

We were quite bewildered when we learned of their steady advance of 15 miles daily and the fall of Penang. This was in no small measure due to air supremacy and the help accorded by Fifth Columnists. Refugees commenced to arrive from the north bringing with them stories of Japanese methods of fighting. Planes were not satisfied by dropping bombs on defenceless citizens, but in Penang and elsewhere they flew at low level and machine-gunned people in the streets who were running for safety from burning buildings. These poor innocent people were murdered in cold blood, without any means of protecting



UNITED STATES BOMBERS SMASH JAPANESE COMMUNICATION LINE.—This aerial reconnaissance photograph shows how bombers of the Tenth United States Army Air Force destroyed a strategic part of the only rail line between Japanese bases at Mandalayi and Monywa in Burma. The American flyers wrecked the Mu River bridge (A), causing an accumulation of rolling stock on the approaches, then methodically bombed the trains (B) until they were completely destroyed.

themselves. It is not surprising therefore, that those who escaped to the country, hid themselves anywhere out of sight. Penang was a city of the dead. Bodies lay about the streets for five days before it was possible to do anything in the way of burial. By this time they were revolting sights, all swollen and lying about in the grotesque positions where they had fallen. Corpses were lying among the overturned fruit and vegetables in the market, which is always a crowded place. Children who had been playing in the streets, lay just where they had fallen—little victims of Japan's "New Order." And so this ruthlessness continued right down the Peninsula. The people of Singapore sympathised with the refugees and did all they could to help, yet the unhappiness and tragedy of being homeless was not fully realised until our own turn came.

FIFTH COLUMN TACTICS

Coupled with the stories of Japanese frightfulness came stories of the Fifth Columnists. On football fields, goal posts were secretly torn up and laid on the ground in the shape of an arrow pointing to some military objective. Shortly after aeroplanes would come over and bomb the place indicated. Trees were cut down and used as indicators in the same way. Far away in some secluded wooded place where petrol or other precious stores were hidden, fire would break out mysteriously, or in some open spot which had been cleverly camouflaged, the dried grass near by would be set on fire. Jap aeroplanes arrived and dropped bombs in the vicinity. Five dollars was paid for any European handed over to the Japs.

For their infiltration purposes, we have no doubt but that barges and tugs belonging to Japanese owned rubber estates and mines were hidden with provisions, native clothing, etc., for the invaders and used by them in their push southward. For the most part their invasion barges were made of steel and were capable of carrying 120 men with full equipment. The Japanese is smaller than our own men and carry less kit.

Their spies dressed as Malays and mingled with the population in the mosques and market places. By this method it was easy to start rumours which thoroughly frightened the people. Rumours true and untrue swept through the country like lightning. It is obvious now that this was further Fifth Column propaganda, and ignorant people unwittingly helped the enemy by repeating these unfounded stories.

PEOPLES' COURAGE

Throughout the whole campaign the peoples of Malaya showed amazing courage and fortitude. Their belief in our ultimate victory was unswerving. Loss of life on both sides was tremendous, but the peoples of Malaya settled down with a will to win. And so the aggressors drew nearer to their objective, which was Singapore with its wonderful Naval Base. Airfield after airfield fell into Japanese hands. As fast as these were bombed, squads were out on the grounds repairing them. In many instances men working tractors could not hear the warning, and the first indication they had of a raid, was bombs dropping around them. Work was carried on in this manner until saturation point was reached, and the airfields had to be abandoned.

Raids on Singapore became a daily occurrence, increasing in numbers day and night until they became almost continuous, the formations growing larger which meant more bombs. Even the birds seemed to sense danger for they twittered unceasingly among themselves as they restlessly darted from tree to tree. Still the gallant defenders did not lose heart. It was inconceivable that Singapore could fall.

On Sunday morning, 8th February, we learned that the Johore causeway connecting the island to the mainland, had been blown up. This meant severing the pipeline which brought water to Singapore from natural reservoirs in Johore, a distance of approximately 56 miles. However, even this did not discourage the defenders and on the same evening the Governor spoke to the Islanders by radio. He addressed them with a quiet assurance that help was coming

and that our position was now more consolidated. He said that European and Asiatic alike stood shoulder to shoulder in defence of their homes and all they held dear. Singapore was likened to gallant Malta. There were adequate water-supplies within the island itself and sufficient food to withstand a seige of six months or more.

The same evening Japanese landed on the north-west coast of the island. Troops came over in steel barges. As fast as our men shot them down, others came to take their places. Our Forces had practically no air support and were being incessantly dive-bombed and machine-gunned from the enemy planes. Our airfields on the island had been so well plastered by the enemy that they were rendered practically useless, but were still being used by a very few heroic fighters. Our bombers were operating from bases in Sumatra and Java. Almost before the bombs had finished falling, men were out repairing the damage, so that our few precious planes could land when they returned.

The bombing of the naval base had started quite early in the Battle of Malaya. During the last fortnight, huge fires were started there which blazed day and night. A heavy black smoke surrounded the island and in the evening a dull red glow was reflected on these black clouds which hid the stars. During the last week, loud explosions could be heard in the direction of the naval base, due to the tremendous demolition work which was being carried out as part of our scorched-earth policy.

GREAT HARDSHIPS

Goods could only be purchased for cash, there was no delivery and in many cases shop-keepers refused to open. In the case of eating-houses, this was a special hardship, a few Chinese of the working class do their own cooking. From the time of the fall of Hongkong, Malaya had been without fresh fruit and vegetables as she had depended upon China for these. Malaya's own hill stations were still being developed. A widely believed rumour that any Chinese found working for a European would have his hands and ears cut off, frightened many faithful servants into leaving their employment, and so it became increasingly difficult to carry on.

The rumble of guns could be heard in increasing volume as the fighting approached South Johore, but after the Japanese landed on Singapore island their shells began to fall nearer the city. People in the outskirts, which had previously been considered safe areas, came into the centre of the city for protection. Batches of soldiers looking like sweeps, came to private houses asking for baths.

The authorities of Singapore were so convinced that the city was safe from air-raids, that no public shelters were constructed and nothing was done to safeguard the populace, until the week Singapore fell. By this time the Japanese were dropping their bombs indiscriminately everywhere. The death roll and damage to property were enormous. Shelling was far more unnerving than bombs.

It was only to be expected that the docks would receive special attention by the enemy and soon there was no staff to tie up ships or work cargo. Those who had not been killed by bombs had fled. The docks presented a sorry spectacle, for the enemy had carried out their destruction well. There were tremendous bomb-craters and burnt-out warehouses everywhere. In addition, there were hundreds of motor cars of all makes and sizes, some brand new and others which had seen good service. Now they all stood abandoned by their owners who, when making their escape from the Colony, had driven them as near as possible to the evacuation ship and then left them. These cars would have been invaluable to the enemy if they had been left unharmed, but in their eagerness to thoroughly destroy the docks, Japanese bombs struck the vehicles, fire broke out and in less than no time they were burnt to a cinder.

EVACUATION

Shipping in the harbour and roads was dive-bombed and machine-gunned, and as soon as vessels were loaded with refugees they set sail. Ships—

CAUTIONARY COUNSELS—III

Gopalan, who Hoarded for Profit and was Devoured by Rats.

By R.G.

Gopalan, when he heard that rice
Could not be had at any price
From Burma or from overseas
At all, because of Japanese,
Thought to himself that he would make
A little hoard for safety's sake ;
And bought a dozen bags or so
And stored them where no one would know.
But when the monsoon failed he thought
Again, and hurried out and bought
Two th usand bags, quite rightly thinking
The price would rise instead of sinking ;
So he would sell at twice or thrice
Or umpteen times his buying price.

And so he did, just for a time
And made huge profits—how sublime !
While queues stretched out down every street
Of those who had no rice to eat.

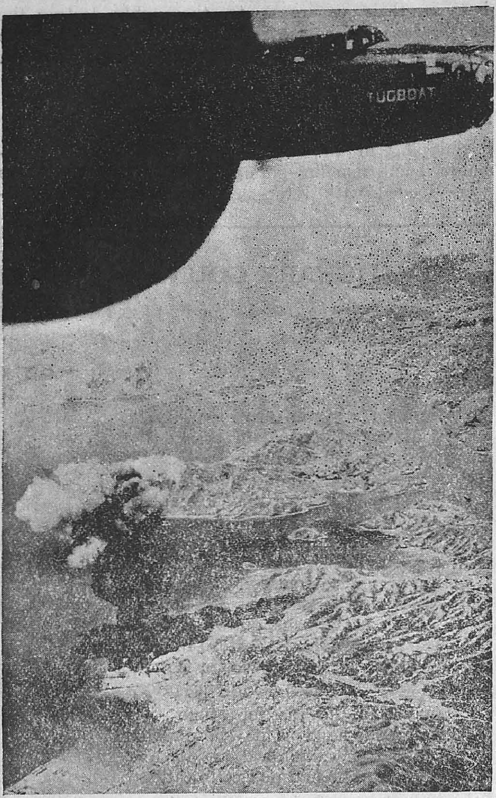
But when an Order or What-d'you-term-it
Forbade all stocking without permit,
Gopalan thought that he would try
To stock and market on the sly.
He moved his bags into a hole
Unknown to any decent soul,
Dark, stinking, verminous and low,
Where no authority would go
For fear of getting foul diseases
Or itches that no ointment eases.
And so Gopalan waited for
His chance to profit even more
From the misfortunes of the war.

Now it befell a cunning, bored,
And hungry rat nosed out the hoard,
And started eating and invited
His friends to join him. They, delighted
To think of such a mighty feast
(For each, it seemed, a ton at least)
Ate heartily and passed the news
To others, who formed up in queues.
And so both early come and late
They ate and ate and ate and ate,
Till they had eaten all the store ;
And still from Fort and Mylapore
And Kilpauk storming at the door
Fresh rats were clamouring for more.

Just when the hopeful multitude
Was disappointed of its food,
Gopalan chose to check his stock.
No sooner he undid the lock
Than angry rats assailed the man
And on his flesh anew began
And ate and ate and ate and ate
Till none was left—a horrid fate,

Moral

There is no need to hoard at all.
Sell out your stock, or keep its small.



UNITED STATES FLYERS BOMB JAPANESE BASE IN BURMA.—A column of black smoke rises from an oil dump at the Japanese base of Laichikok, on the Chinese mainland opposite Hongkong, the result of a direct hit during a raid on the enemy base by B-25 Mitchell bombers of the United States Army Air Forces. Bombs from the American planes started many fires during the attack. The picture was taken from one of the American bombers.

anything that could float was commandeered—sampans (canoes), twakows (Chinese sailing ships), motor launches and even home-made rafts. Over 200 people crowded on to a minesweeper which had never been intended to carry passengers. Each person selected his or her allotted few feet of space on the iron deck. The single lavatory it boasted went out of action during the first few hours and thereafter a bucket, behind improvised convas screens on deck had to be used by all and sundry. Many escaped in small rowing boats and Chinese sailing ships. All these, with their pitiful cargoes, became easy targets for the Japanese. From Singapore to Java these ships were a constant target for Japanese planes, and fear of submarines was an additional menace. Some ships were quite unarmed and in every case there was not sufficient lifeboat accommodation or lifebelts. The Japanese boasted that they either sank or damaged two out of every three ships leaving Singapore.

To those who wanted to escape from the Japanese aggressors, there was only one way, and that was through shark-infested waters. Many people had not the nerve to face the ordeal and decided rather to remain behind. When any ships were leaving, the utmost secrecy was maintained. In some cases, people were telephoned in the middle of the night and told to go to a certain place with as much hand luggage as they could carry themselves. At the rendezvous they were given a pass and directed to proceed to where the ship was waiting. Under cover of the darkness, a steady stream of cars made their way. Speed was the order of the day. There was no time for farewells. The ship could only remain alongside for a given period. If all passengers were not on board by departure time, the ship pulled out leaving the unlucky ones behind. This happened many times. It was impossible to keep order and pandemonium reigned. Many people lost their luggage.

TRAGIC INCIDENTS

In the darkness one young girl let go the arm of her old blind mother, who was immediately caught in the surging mass of struggling humanity. The old lady did not board the ship and nobody knew what became of her. Another young mother put her baby on board in a place of safety and then returned to the wharf side in order to collect her suit-cases, but she was unable to get back on the ship again and that vessel sailed taking the three-months' old infant to an unknown destination, leaving its distracted mother behind. Young children clutching some beloved toy, were guided by broken-hearted mothers to safety; old men and invalids, some mothers with babies a few days old, while others gave birth to their infants after boarding the ship—thus the people of Singapore left their homes and husbands behind. The modest homes of the working class women were as dear to their hearts as the palatial mansions were to the rich.

The city had been subjected to almost continuous bombing and shelling, and it would be ridiculous to claim that the population remained calm at this stage, but they were far from being panic-stricken. Right up to the time when the sirens sounded the "all clear" on Sunday evening, the 15th February announcing cessation of hostilities, the morale of the citizens never flagged.

INFERNO

As we drew away from Singapore in the evening light of 11th February, it looked like some inferno. To the left a whole island, upon which had stood an oil installation, was ablaze, while to the right of the city, shipyards and slipways were in smoking ruins—part of Singapore's scorched-earth policy.

Down in the ship's holds, straw mattresses were laid side by side. The once wealthy and poor alike, European and Asiatic, all shared the same conditions. Such men who were allowed to leave Malaya helped to stoke ship or did similar work. Women washed dirty dishes and cleaned out lavatories, for there were very few servants available. Everyone took an active part.

The sea itself was covered with a thick surface of oil, which, if our ship had been torpedoed or sunk by bombing, would have made swimming impossible. The wailing of sirens scarcely stopped and after dropping their bombs the Japanese' planes flew off stunting. Looking back on the once beautiful city of Singapore from the sea, it seemed impossible that life could still exist, yet those brave people held out against overwhelming odds for four more days.

SPEAK FOR ENGLAND

By R.G.

A voice said, Speak for England. But the deeds
Her children did spoke clearer than our words :
And such a chorus as at dawn the birds
Raise jubilant in woods and by the meads
Where English rivers murmur through their reeds
Thrilled through the world. Who has not heard [the pæan
Echoing and echoing to the empyrean ?
He speaks for England who for England bleeds
To hold her honour still unstained, her head
Unbowed, her freedoms as of old unsmutched :
And while she in the front line fights again,
As when she fought Napoleon, Louis, Spain,
The dying hands round gun and joy-stick clutched
Renew the voiceless eloquence of the dead.

LORD MOUNTBATTEN: "THE LEADER I ALWAYS WANT TO FOLLOW"

By WILLIAM LAWLOR

The author served under Lord Mountbatten at sea for eight years in Britain's Royal Navy; was with him on the destroyer Kelly *and acted as his chaffeur ashore.*

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN

I remember Lord Louis at the very beginning when we commissioned the destroyer *Daring*. More than any officer I have ever been with, he really makes it his duty to know the men. Their welfare comes before anything whatsoever and by that he got the best out of us of every type. He was so human with me and with everybody.

It was funny when he spoke to us on the ship; it was not like an officer speaking, you had the idea that he was speaking more or less as a father—a young father.

Once he told the men on the lower deck that their troubles were his troubles; in trouble we could always go straight down to him, directly go down to his cabin. And when we went to him, he was very human.

He pretty well knows my home life—I remember him advising me to wait before I got married. I have never been punished by him—never had to go up for report, so I do not know what his reaction is at the table, but he could be strict. He is very strict on one item—leave breaking even in peacetime. But one thing, with Lord Louis you are not guilty until you are proven guilty.

FLOATING TARGET

Well, with the war, it was seatime in a big way. We were seldom in harbour. What I remember best was bringing back the destroyer *Kelly* after she had been torpedoed. We were ordered to intercept an enemy convoy off the German coast; then we were torpedoed by an E-boat. It struck us under the bridge and blew up the boiler rooms. After 24 hours, she was more or less sinking. We abandoned ship and watched her for seven hours—a floating target with four or five submarines in the vicinity. Then Lord Louis against all rules and regulations took 17 of us back on the ship. He was not going to lose her. Just after we got on board, we got a signal from a senior officer on another ship, "Abandon ship, sink *Kelly*." They thought she could not make it. Lord Louis was raving when we got that signal. I'll never forget the reaction on his face. He returned the signal, "Send me a salvage tug. We can fight our way back." Then we had four days and four nights of it bringing the *Kelly* back, towed along at three to five knots. With the ship's crew of more than 200 cut down to 18 you have still got to keep the guns manned all the same.

We were attacked all the way—by submarines, torpedoes and aircraft—four days and four nights across the North Sea. Aircraft dived again and again. In one day we had 20 to 30 attacks by aircraft. But they got such a hot reception from the 18 of us on board that in the end they eased off their attacks. I was on the pompoms, but even when we could not bear on the airplanes with our guns, there was Lord Louis up there on "Point's five's" bridge—ripping away all on his own. We had no sleep for four nights. At various times, I made my way up to the bridge—it was pretty well shattered. I was taking coffee up, I remember once, when I caught him alone. Lord Louis looked very tired with his face black and unshaven, standing there hanging on. There had been lot of casualties when we were hit, so when I caught him there alone I could read him like a book; I knew he was feeling the losses. But down with us, he was the life of the party. He kept us alive all the time. He would crack jokes to show we were the same old crew every time. And he brought us and the *Kelly* back fighting all the way. He is the only man who would have even tried it.

INCIDENT I WILL NEVER FORGET

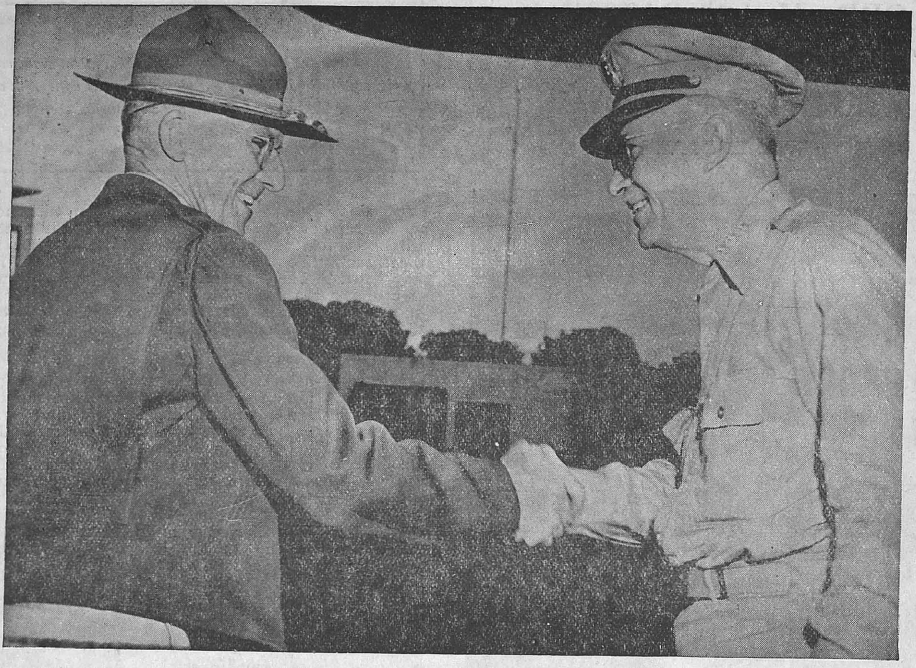
Then, when the *Kelly* was repaired, we got back on her and there was an incident I will never forget. We were only three destroyers on patrol somewhere off the Channel Islands and Lord Louis made a broadcast to the ship's crew. This is what he said: "We are now going to intercept two battle cruisers, *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, also four cruisers of the *Hipper* class with a destroyer screen and a heavy E-boat screen. After breaking through the destroyer screen, we will torpedo the battle cruisers and cruisers and then we will intercept the destroyers."

We were happy and feeling fine when he said it, because everything he said, we always seemed to get away with it. If he had said that the *Kelly* had got wings and she was going to the North Pole, we would believe it, because everything he said we always seemed to do it. Unfortunately the Germans had got so big a start on us that we were unable to catch them.

Then there was Benghazi. We were ordered from Malta to bombard Bengazhi with a flotilla. There was a heavy mist and we arrived slightly out of position. I was on the bridge then and I remember Lord Louis saying to the navigating officer: "We'll do it the boxer style." And not waiting for any more orders, he made sure. He went in almost to the breakwater of the harbour, just like a boxer shaking hands with the enemy, and he took a cool look round and then coming out he went in a second time and bombarded at point-blank range. The rest of the flotilla followed suit. Then we went back to Malta and Crete and we saw a lot more fighting before we were sunk off the coast of Crete.

We were hit by a 1,000-pound bomb from a Stuka and the *Kelly* sank at last on May 23, 1941, at 7-55 a.m.

I was badly burned beyond all recognition and covered in oil and fuel. On the ship which picked us up the doctors told Lord Louis that there was not much hope for me. And I can remember that while the doctor was giving me a blood transfusion, Lord Louis said to me: "Now Lawlor, I want you to liven yourself up and remember your honeymoon when you get home. And above all you have got to avenge those burns some time." Then he went round talking to the other wounded, though he was hit himself. Now my burns and nervous shock are almost completely cured. Shortly I may be fit to go to sea again. And I feel that if I go back to sea, he is the man I want to go with. —*From London Calling.*



UNITED STATES' GENERALS MEET IN INDIA.—Lieutenant-General Joseph W. Stilwell (left), *Commander-in-Chief of United States forces in China, Burma and India, welcomes Lieutenant-General Brehon B. Somervell, Commander of the United States Army Service Forces at an airfield in India. General Somervell conferred with Allied leaders in India and China following the establishment of the new Supreme Allied South-east Asia Command under the Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten of Great Britain.*

HE SHALL MAKE JAPAN KISS THE GROUND

By MAJOR C. B. THORNE, M.C.

This commentary is written by an authority on combined strategy, whose appreciations and criticisms on matters concerning Imperial Defence during the past 14 years have been proved by subsequent events to have been remarkably accurate.

In an article entitled "Amphibious Warfare" published in the Cavalry Journal *as far back as October 1929, he gave an accurate forecast of the type of warfare likely to confront Britain in the future, pointing out that the defence of British naval bases depended not merely on naval might but on local air supremacy together with adequate military garrisons.*

For these reasons he pressed for the setting up of a single Supreme Commander for the naval, military and air force components, and strongly recommended that training in combined operations should take a prominent part in the curriculum of service experts.

THE full significance of the appointment of Lord Louis Mountbatten as Allied Supreme Commander of the newly created South-east Asia Command is in all probability not yet wholly appreciated.

Whenever Britain or Japan resorts to the use of armed force, their operations must be primarily of an amphibious nature. Success in battle for these nations will, therefore, depend on the closest co-operation and co-ordination of their respective navies, armies and air forces.

The key to Japan's defeat will among other things lie in her economic weakness. China is, therefore, of the greatest strategic and economic importance to Japan. The annexation of Korea in 1910, the occupation of Manchukuo with its cotton and other resources, and the seizure of Chinese territory further south have made these acquisitions an exclusive source of supply of raw materials as well as a market for Japanese goods.

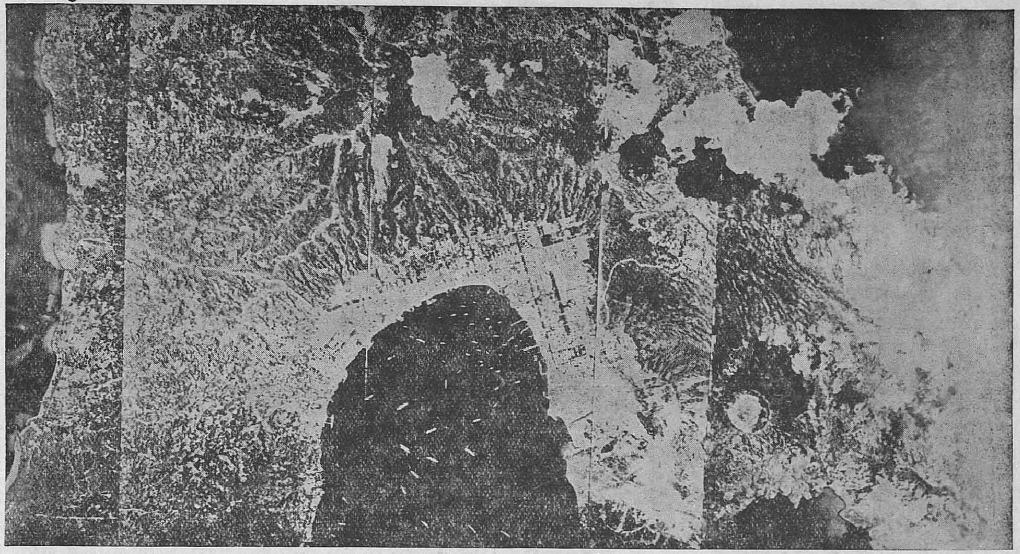
Strategically the establishment of a footing in Chinese territories has rendered the narrow waters to the west of Japan safer for her shipping, and, for the time being, reduced the threat of direct air attacks on her vulnerable production plants.

As a nation the Japanese are united and fanatical. They believe in the divinity of their Emperor, and the infallibility of their war leaders, but they fear the material resources of the United Nations. This fear will no doubt be exploited.

Broadly, the defeat of Japan will most certainly be brought about by a number of carefully co-ordinated actions which will no doubt include the re-opening of the Burma supply route to China, and the establishment of military and air supremacy in Chinese territory preparatory to the defeat of the Japanese army on the mainland. These measures will be forerunners to an attack on Japan. Concurrently, the Allies will undoubtedly converge on Japan *via* the Pacific. This operation will entail the rapid and progressive seizure of a number of islands along the route, thus forming "stepping stones" for such an encroachment. Once Japan is brought within the range of sustained heavy bombing attacks, her end will be in sight.

Future operations in the Pacific will comprise the largest scale amphibious campaign in history, and therein lies the importance of the Allied choice in selecting Lord Louis Mountbatten as Allied Supreme Commander of the South-east Asia Command. Furthermore, the timing of this appointment will have considerable bearing on subsequent events. An undertaking of such magnitude necessitates a mass of detailed preliminary planning of a highly technical nature. These tasks take time to carry into effect. Hence, it is preferable that they are dealt with during a period prior to the cessation of hostilities in Europe. By this means any unnecessary delay, due to preliminaries, will be avoided when switching Allied armed might from the European to the Far Eastern theatre of war.

For his gallantry a Scottish soldier was given a decoration. A week or so later a friend asked him: "And what does the wife think of your medal, Sandy?" "She doesna' ken yet," was the reply. "It's no my turn to write."



RABAUL, THE JAPS' STRONGEST BASE IN THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC.—An aerial photograph of the large and excellent harbour utilized as a naval and supply base, and protected by squadrons of bombers and fighters. Allied planes from General MacArthur's command make Rabaul one of their favourite targets.

THE PACIFIC SCENE—TWO YEARS AGO AND TO-DAY

By HANSON W. BALDWIN

DECEMBER 7, "the date that will live in infamy", marks the end of the second year of the Pacific war.

In two years of struggle with Japan the United States has won great victories and suffered great defeats. The victories have been largely defensive ones (Midway, the Coral Sea and the Aleutians) or outpost ones—the Solomons and the New Guinea battles. The defeats deprived us of the advanced bases of the Philippines, Guam and Wake, shut the Burma Road to China, eliminated Singapore, Hong Kong and the Netherlands East Indies as possible bases and cut us off from the tin and rubber and oil of the Far East.

The Japanese won a great strategic victory in the first months of the war, and as matters stand to-day the strategic balance sheet of the Pacific War is still in their favour. We have shifted from the pure defensive of the first months of war to the offensive-defensive, represented by our operations in the Solomons and New Guinea, our carrier raids against Wake, Marcus and other Japanese islands, and our air raids from Chinese and Indian bases against Japanese shipping. We are just beginning to progress from these limited offensive operations to more major offensives; we have the initiative to-day and we may soon start what can probably be called a strategic offensive.

But the past two years of war in the Pacific have by no means been profitless. The Japanese tide of empire has been dammed; Australian and South Pacific positions have been saved; Hawaii and Midway, Alaska and the Aleutians, and India are secure; our supply lines to these bases are safe.

ATTRITION WARFARE

And the attrition warfare waged by our submarines and planes, and the battles that have marked our defensive and limited offensive operations have cost Japan heavily. She has suffered in the war of attrition more heavily than we have.

Gauged by the yardstick of military strength, we have profited by time in the Pacific; to-day we are far stronger in armed men, in planes, in ships relative to Japan than we were two years ago. Two years ago, even before Pearl Harbour, our air power and sea power in the Pacific were definitely inferior to the enemy's; to-day there is no doubt that they are considerably superior qualitatively and increasingly so quantitatively.

And to-day two elements—well-trained amphibious forces and merchant shipping—the lack of which once strictly limited our offensive operations are now available in increasing strength.

Moreover, our quantitative superiority—particularly in planes and ships—is almost certain to increase relative to Japan with the passage of time. Japan cannot possibly match our construction programme in planes or ships, and when the European phase of the war is ended, tremendous additional forces will be released for duty in the Pacific.

But the European war is primarily an air-land war and the Pacific-Asiatic war is primarily an air-sea war. This means that a major part of the American navy is available for Pacific operations even before the end of the European war. Major operations against Japan can, therefore, be started—though not brought to their culmination before the European war ends.

INDUSTRIAL MIRACLE

Two years ago few of our strategists believed it would be possible for the United States to conduct major operations in both oceans simultaneously. But to-day—or in the near future—partly because of the industrial miracle represented by our construction programme of 1942 and 1943, partly because of the differing natures of the war in the West and in the East, the United States can start a major offensive against Japan even while striking against Germany.

Two years ago, the Japanese aircraft production of all types of military planes, including trainers, was probably between 400 and 800 planes a month, possibly closer to the higher figure.

To-day, it may be between 800 and 1,200 planes a month, possibly closer to the higher figure.

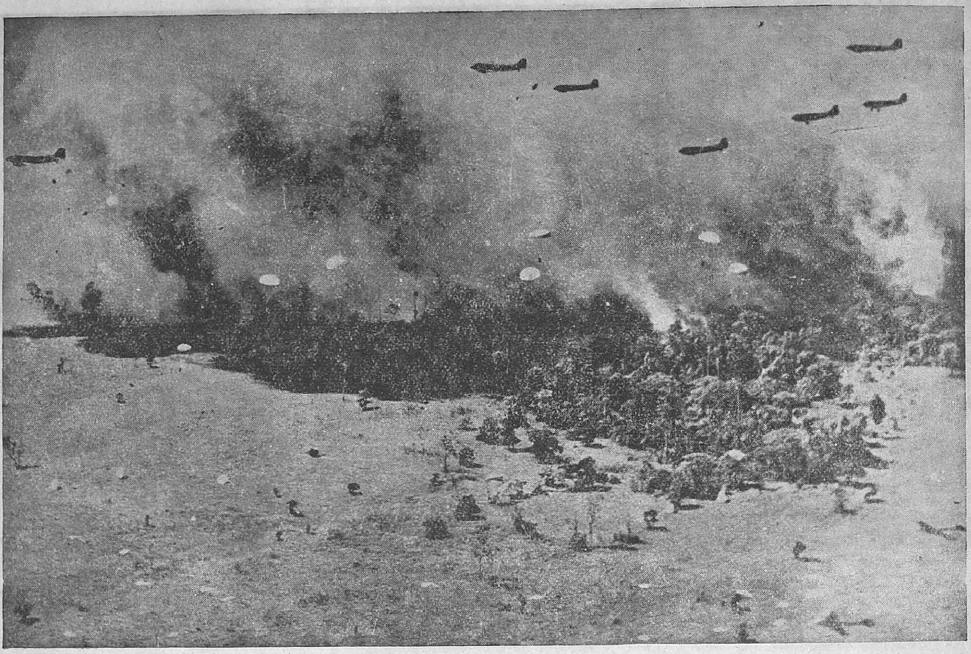
Two years ago, the aircraft production of the United States was about 2,000 military planes a month; to-day, it is about 7,700 a month.

Two years ago, Japan had a merchant ship construction capacity of about 400,000 to 500,000 tons per year. To-day she has lost perhaps 2,500,000 tons in the war, but her replacement capacity has increased (though it is probably inadequate to meet losses) to 800,000 to 900,000 tons annually.

Two years ago, during all of 1941, the United States produced 1,088,000 tons of merchant shipping; this year of 1943, we shall produce at least 19,000,000 deadweight tons.

Two years ago, the Pacific fleet of the United States Navy—though it represented the major part of our naval strength—was inferior in numbers to the Japanese fleet. Two years ago we had in both oceans some seven regular aircraft-carriers; the Japanese had at least nine, plus more converted auxiliary carriers than we had.

(Continued on page 18)



UNITED STATES PARATROOPS ATTACK IN NEW GUINEA.—Protected by a smoke screen and jumping from low altitude, United States Army parachute troops float to earth before joining the battle which drove the Japanese from Lae, New Guinea. In the battle, Allied parachutists, forming one jaw of a pincers attack, marched down the Markham Valley to join forces with Australian jungle fighters who had been landed by sea and air behind the enemy lines. The combined forces took Lae on September 18, 1943, twelve days after the original landings.

THE PACIFIC SETUP: ALLIED AND JAPANESE

By OSWALD DUTCH

AT present the Japanese have 4,000,000 men under arms in their army alone. Of these, 1,000,000 are fighting in China and on the Burmese frontier; 500,000 are stationed on the Manchurian frontiers. The remaining 2,500,000 men are occupying Indo-China, the Malay States, Siam, the Netherlands East Indies and Borneo. A number of them are holding the outer bastions in South-western and South Pacific, in the Philippines, and the wide semi-circle formed by Timor, New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago, up to the northern Solomon Islands. Reserves are kept in Japan proper and in the many hundreds of larger or smaller islands of the Pacific, the Mariana and Caroline islands, and the Marshall group of islands.

Even this brief enumeration is sufficient to show how scattered Japanese fortunes must be, and how much they must depend on their fleet. Their ships—navy as well as merchant—have suffered serious losses within the last 18 months. Between December 1942 and July 1943, the Japanese navy lost three battleships, six aircraft-carriers, 34 cruisers, 67 destroyers and 16 submarines. The assumption that the Japanese navy has lost 25 to 30 per cent of its strength may not be far wrong. In spite of the utmost efforts of Japan's industry, such losses cannot possibly be made good.

Japan's merchant fleet amounted before Pearl Harbour to 7,619,000 tons, of which—according to the Secretary of the United States Navy—2,540,000 tons had been sunk up to September 3, 1943. Japanese shipyards cannot build more than 450,000 to 500,000 tons of shipping a year, and consequently less than half of these losses can be replaced.

The Japanese air force has also been materially weakened within the last 18 months. At the present moment it may possess 3,000 to 4,000 first-line aircraft, which is barely enough to cover the immense distances between the areas that have to be defended. The output of Japanese aircraft factories is estimated at 750 machines of all kinds a month, a figure which cannot in any way be compared with the output of aircraft in Allied factories. In actual fact the Japanese have already abandoned the airfields in Western Burma because of the great distance. In the other outer bastions too considerable slackening of air activity has been noticeable.

These Japanese forces are facing the armies, navies and air forces of the Allies in an immense circle, while the latter are increasing in numbers and striking power from month to month. The disposition of these forces is roughly as follows: in the centre of the fronts are large but not very well-equipped Chinese armies under Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. These are flanked on one side by the British-Indian army on the Burmese frontier, and a second British army consisting of British, Indian, East African and colonial troops.

In Timor, Australians who for a long time had fought as irregulars are now organized as regular commandos and are constantly operating against the Japanese. Combined American-Australian and American-New Zealand armies under General MacArthur are working together with admirable smoothness and efficiency in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Large reserves for these armies which may be used as required are stationed in Australia and New Zealand.

In the North Pacific, American and Canadian troops are operating in the Aleutian Islands while American armies have been concentrated along the west coast of the United States.

With the exception of the troops in India and China, all these armies are very largely dependent on the navy and air forces. Units of the British, Indian and Netherlands navies are operating in the Indian Ocean. Netherlands forces are based on Ceylon. Units of the American and Australian navies are patrolling the South-western Pacific, and a large American fleet under Vice-Admiral Halsey is stationed in the South Pacific. This also includes some Australian units and New Zealand minesweepers and corvettes. A large contingent of Canadian units together with a large American fleet is operating in the Northern Pacific.

The chief bases of these fleets are the East African ports, Indian ports, Trincomalee in Ceylon, Australian and New Zealand ports, Pearl Harbour, Balboa in the Panama Canal zone, San Diego and San Francisco on the west coast of the United States, Esquimalt on the west coast of Canada, and, finally, small harbours on the Aleutian Islands.

The value of the Allied successes on the Solomon Islands and in New Guinea must be assessed from the viewpoint of air security. The closer Allied air bases can be pushed to the Japanese main bases, the easier it will be to carry out amphibious operations in the near future.

A DIARY OF THE FAR EASTERN WAR

1941

DEC. 7.—Treacherous Jap attack on Pearl Harbour.

DEC. 8.—Japanese attempts to invade Malaya and Hongkong.

Thailand, after 5½ hours' resistance, permits passage of Japanese troops.

DEC. 9.—Japanese land in Malaya and the Philippines.

DEC. 10.—British battleship *Prince of Wales* and cruiser *Repulse* sunk by air attack off Northern Malaya.

DEC. 13.—Japanese take island of Guam.

DEC. 14.—Japanese cross into Burma from Thailand in Point Victoria region.

General attack on Hongkong.

DEC. 18.—Forestalling Japanese action, British and Dutch troops occupy Portuguese Timor.

DEC. 24.—Japanese take Wake Island.

DEC. 25.—Hongkong surrenders.

DEC. 27.—Japanese bomb open city of Manila.

1942

JAN. 3.—General Wavell appointed Supreme Allied Commander-in-Chief in the South-west Pacific.

JAN. 11.—Japanese land in Dutch East Indies.

JAN. 23.—Enemy forces land on Solomon Islands.

JAN. 25.—Enemy convoy suffers heavily in Straits of Macassar.

JAN. 26.—Macassar Straits action continues: enemy lose aircraft-carrier. In all, at least 10 other enemy ships destroyed.

JAN. 31.—Battle of Malaya has ended, and battle of Singapore begins.

FEB. 1.—United States Pacific Fleet attacks seven enemy naval bases in Marshall and Gilbert islands.

FEB. 9.—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek arrives in Delhi for consultations with Government of India.

FEB. 15.—Fall of Singapore.

MAR. 3.—General Wavell relinquishes South-west Pacific Command and returns to India as Commander-in-Chief.

MAR. 4.—General MacArthur's air force in Philippines sinks three Japanese ships in Subic Bay.

MAR. 9.—Evacuation of Rangoon.

Japs land in New Guinea.

MAR. 10.—Mr. Eden reveals to Commons atrocities in Hongkong.

MAR. 13.—American troops arrive in Australia.

MAR. 18.—General MacArthur appointed to Supreme Command of all Allied forces east of Singapore.

United States Navy Department announces that 23 Japanese ships, including 12 warships were sunk or damaged in attacks on invasion fleet off New Guinea.

MAR. 25.—Japanese occupy Andaman Islands.

APR. 5.—Enemy lose 27 out of 75 planes in raid on Colombo.

APR. 9.—Fighting in Bataan (Philippines) has ceased.

APR. 18.—American planes bomb Tokyo, Kobe, Yokohama and other Japanese cities.

MAY 6.—Island of Corregidor surrenders.

MAY 8–9.—Battle of Coral Sea: enemy lose 15 warships, Americans three. Japanese also lose 100 aircraft.

MAY 11.—Governor of Burma and his Ministers move to India.

JUNE 6–8.—Japanese attack Midway Island. Enemy lose 15 warships and four aircraft-carriers.

JUNE 22.—Japanese occupy Kiska in the Aleutians.

JULY 24.—Japanese land on north coast of Papua, New Guinea.

JULY 31.—Japanese press towards Port Moresby.

AUG. 11.—United States forces land on Solomon Islands.

AUG. 26–27.—Big naval and air battle off Solomons. Enemy fleet scattered and driven north with considerable losses.

SEP. 13.—Japanese thrust towards Port Moresby held.

OCT. 1.—Enemy retreating in New Guinea.

OCT. 7.—Japanese land in Guadalcanal in the Solomons.

OCT. 9.—Japanese abandon Attu in the Aleutians.

OCT. 15.—Enemy suffer important losses in attempts to recapture Guadalcanal.

OCT. 26.—Aerodromes in North-east India attacked by Japanese.

OCT. 30.—Japanese fleet withdraws from Solomons.

NOV. 1.—Seven Japanese ships believed sunk or damaged in the battle off Stewart Isles.

NOV. 11.—Japanese surface raider sunk in Indian Ocean by an Indian minesweeper, H.M.I.S. *Bengal*.

NOV. 15–16.—United States naval and air forces score great victory in Solomons, destroying 23 enemy ships. Twenty-four thousand Japanese troops drowned.

DEC. 20.—Allied troops move into Burma and push into Arakan.

Calcutta bombed for first time.

1943

JAN. 16.—Flight Sergeant Pring, Royal Air Force, shoots down three enemy planes over Calcutta in five minutes.

MAR. 4–5.—Battle of Bismarck Sea, a major disaster to the enemy. Entire Japanese force of 22 vessels destroyed. Seventy-nine aircraft shot down; 15,000 ground forces drowned or killed.

MAR. 30.—Bengal declared "raid area."

MAY 11.—Allied troops evacuate Maungdaw in Arakan.

MAY 20.—It is announced that commando force under Brigadier Wingate has spent three months on raiding expedition deep into Burma.

MAY 23.—End of organized enemy resistance on Attu Island, Aleutians.

JUNE 12.—Chinese troops enter Kinwha, last Japanese air base in Chekiang, "Bomb Tokyo" province.

JUNE 30.—United States forces land on Rendova Island, in New Georgia group of Solomons: start of Allied offensive.

JULY 8.—United States forces make two new landings on vital points in Solomons.

JULY 12.—Blockaded by land and sea, Japanese garrison at Munda faced with alternative of death or surrender.

JULY 24.—American land in Nassau Bay in New Guinea.

AUG. 6.—Allies capture Munda, a key base of the enemy in South-west Pacific.

AUG. 21.—Kiska taken by Americans without opposition.

AUG. 23.—Chungking bombed for first time in two years.

AUG. 25.—Lord Louis Mountbatten appointed Supreme Allied Commander in South-east Asia.

AUG. 28.—Organized Japanese resistance on New Georgia Island ceases.

SEP. 1.—United States task forces raid Marcus Island.

SEP. 14.—Allied troops capture Salamaua.

SEP. 16.—Australian troops occupy Lae, main Japanese base on the coast of New Guinea.

OCT. 2.—Australian forces capture Finschhafen, north-east of Lae.

OCT. 7.—Lord Louis Mountbatten arrives in Delhi.

OCT. 13.—In heaviest air blow yet struck in South-west Pacific, Allies destroy at Rabaul seven enemy ships including three destroyers, and 100 aircraft.

NOV. 2.—American forces invade Bougainville Island, last enemy bastion in Solomons.

NOV. 12.—Fifteen enemy warships hit by Allied planes in new raid on Rabaul.

NOV. 16.—Royal Air Force carries out its heaviest attack on Burma since the war in the East began. Railway stations, marshalling yards and racks at Pegu were the targets.

Two rabbits were watching a long and busy assembly line on which thousands of tank parts were being made. They watched this for an hour. Then one of them turned to the other and said: "Don't think I'm jealous—but they must've started with more than two."

GIFT OF 'HOLIDAY COTTAGE' IN SOUTH INDIA FOR R.A.F.

THE doors of the nifty bungalow were open to welcome the two smiling 'Erks' whose distinction it is to be the first Royal Air Force guests. Set attractively among green lawns, the leave cottage is a war-duration gift to the Royal Air Force for use of their 'other ranks.' Furnished, curtained, linen found, meals free and—no rent; a 'cottage in the country' where leave-taking airmen may for fourteen days forget exigencies of the service and laze with a book under fruit and flowering trees, dig the garden, help the cook, and generally take life easily.

There are two bed-rooms, a bath-room and sitting-room, and four guests may be accommodated at one time. Everything has received the most considerate and detailed thought for the airmen who will avail themselves of this most generous gift to them. An information list gives the names of cinemas in the neighbourhood, the dance halls, the cafes. One item states "there are civic clothes in the drawer". . . one had noticed new pyjamas placed at the head of each bed. Another item, "hot water will be provided", while another says simply, "if anything else is needed please ask". The notes end with a wish expressed for the enjoyment of the Royal Air Force guests at this holiday cottage and that they will consider the place their home.

Nor is this all. The leave cottage is the gift of Mr. Frank Harvey, resident Secretary of the Bangalore Theosophical Society, and also placed at the disposal of his airmen guests are the lounges of the large building, also in the extensive grounds, the library, and the sitting room in the Secretary's wing. Last and most amazing discovery—the boys may go for jaunts in Mr. Harvey's little car, driver provided. When the generosity of the host was commented on he said this is his special contribution to the war effort. The prospect of having guests for the duration of war pleases him, for he likes company.

Someone asked the lucky fellows how they plan to spend their time. Came simultaneous replies, "Sleeping!" "Charpoi bashing!" Books, bed, no restrictions placed on the electric light . . . And so started the first day of the airmen's leave at the gift bungalow. For exercise, the badminton court—also set in this veritable parkland—walks to the colourful bazaar and Timoshonko, the semi-dachshund, to run with round the block plus, of course, P.T. early mornings. The two lads, Lac J. M. Green of Hadleigh, Southend, and AC (1) G. S. Melville of Aberdeen will return from their holiday fit as fiddles and brimful of ambition.

Accompanying these initial Air Force guests to the holiday bungalow were the Senior Officer of Administration, Group Captain G. V. Howard, and the Royal Air Force Welfare Officers, Squadron Leader (Padre) Rule and Flight-Lieutenant Brownlee. As he was leaving this little jewel of a place, the Padre said laconically he had a good mind to remove his stripes . . .

"GANG SHOW" TO VISIT SOUTH INDIA

Ralph Reader, the originator of the world-famous "Gang Show" and at present an officer in the Royal Air Force has just completed a short tour of Royal Air Force Units somewhere in southern areas. Wherever he visited, Ralph Reader was accorded such a welcome as has never before been equalled. The Royal Air Force lads simply raved when they knew this great and popular entertainer was about to pay them a special visit. While entertaining Royal Air Force personnel Squadron Leader Ralph Reader promised that his "Gang Show" would be with them shortly, making Bangalore their temporary headquarters.

Ralph Reader was at one time a Scout Master. He established his troupe as a Boy Scout Show, proceeds going either to the Scout Fund or charity. His concerts were such an outstanding success that the Boy Scout Show became an institution and established itself under his inspiration. Thus the beginnings of the new world-wide rage, the "Gang Show."

The "Gang" have for the past year been touring in the Middle East, Cyrenaica and Tunisia. With what degree of pleasure their appearance in this country is awaited can be known only to those already familiar with Squadron Leader Ralph Reader's "Gang Shows." An unimagined treat in store awaits those who are not—if indeed there are such.

RIGHT MAN IN RIGHT JOB: R.A.F. MOTTO

They are in a spot the ordinary man would pay to avoid. But these six airmen want to stay just where they are. The nearest village is five miles distant. The nearest European is eighty miles. The little unit is almost always cut off by rains. Their nearest drinking water is three miles away and supplies are canoed to them across a river in petrol cans. The surrounding country differs vastly from anything they ever suspected could exist. Swamps encircle their huts, primeval jungle stretches away for miles all round, there is malaria to guard against, insects to avoid. Why are these boys so content?

When first they were sent to this operational outpost "somewhere in India" it was feared the mission would prove a failure because of these conditions they had never before to contend with. Personality clashes were foreseen, deterioration in health, 'homesickness' for a livelier, more orthodox spot.

But these Royal Air Force B.O.Rs. on being visited, were found to be as happy as sandboys, fit as fiddles, their mentality bright. By some magic, some 'Lost Horizon' of eternal youth, they were not only content but eager to "stay put".

That visiting officer scratched his head. What is the secret, he asked. The reason he found to be twofold. Firstly, these men of the Royal Air Force are doing their job. That in the Royal Air Force is the biggest consideration there can be. It matters not that their only contact with the outside world is the ration-waggon, that they know the day of the week only when the Padre calls upon them . . . They are getting on with their job.

But it even more than that. These airmen are trade-conscious. They were selected for their particular job. They are specialists in their trade, proud of their work, enjoying it. They desire no change. There is no officer to dictate to them, the men are left to get on with the job they know so well and for which we owe them so much. Because, in the Royal Air Force, they are justifying early training and study and effort to learn how to do just what they are now doing, they are happy. Thus the Royal Air Force points the secret to success. The right man is selected for the right task.

Therefore they are doing a wonderful job, this little unit of heroes—one of many doing exactly the same—"somewhere in operational areas in India." We salute them.

R.A.F. BEAUFIGHTER CREW DECORATED

Pilot and navigator of a Beaufighter aircraft who have struck a telling blow against Japanese fuel reserves in Burma have been decorated for their exploits.

They are Sergt. C. G. Johnson, the pilot, who receives the D.F.M., and Flying Officer A. M. Dinwoodie, the navigator, who is awarded the D.F.C.

The citation says: "On July 7, Sergt. Johnson and Flying Officer Dinwoodie carried out an Irrawaddy strafe. A million gallon oil tank was located and destroyed which greatly depleted the enemy's oil reserve in Burma.

"In addition, more than 12 sampans were destroyed and excellent photographs of a river steamer and three 60-foot barges were taken. Anti-aircraft fire was experienced but their aircraft was not hit. The aircraft was flown back to base throughout extremely adverse weather conditions after flying up to 20,000 feet.

"This officer and non-commissioned officer have maintained a steady record of highly successful operations during the worst phases of the monsoon in Burma."

Johnson, who has a singular talent for spotting Jap oil tanks, has earned the sobriquet "Oil Tank Johnny." He met his navigator at a flying training school in England and they have been together ever since. They belong to a famous train-busting squadron.

R.A.F. NIGHT SORTIES REPLENISH LARDER

Not content with leading a Liberator bomber squadron over Japanese occupied Burma, a Royal Air Force Wing Commander also leads his men on successful sorties which result in the replenishment of the Squadron larder.

On nights when the air crews are not pounding away at Japanese installations and airfields a different kind of hunt is organized. Built out of the flat waste plains of Bengal the home base abounds with the wily hare who is often wont to be caught unawares.

The procedure is simple but effective. A small number of men are loaded into a lorry and the equipment consists of shot-guns and signalling lamps. The lorry moves slowly up the runway whilst the gunners cover both port and starboard side which are thick with undergrowth. Illumination is provided by the men handling the highly-powered lamps who scan the area and bring to light the astonished quarry.

By this method, not only is a welcome change of diet assured but excellent marksmanship practice is provided for the air-gunners whose normal prey is something more substantial. It also provides a deviation from routine hard work and early nights which can become all too prevalent on a lonely station.

UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE ARRIVES IN MOSCOW.—Cordell Hull (left foreground), *United States Secretary of State, and Vyacheslaff M. Molotov* (right foreground) *Foreign Commissar of the U.S.S.R., are pictured as Mr. Hull arrived at the airport in Moscow, the Soviet capital, to participate in the war conference with other Allied diplomatic and military officials. This is a radio photo sent from Moscow to the United States.*

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

RU SIAN THEATRE — YUGOSLAVIA — ITALY— OCCUPIED EUROPE—ALLIED AIR OFFENSIVE— CHINESE SITUATION—THE PACIFIC WAR—PEACE-FEELERS.

RUSSIA

The Germans have been fought to a standstill, north and east of Zhitomir. Fierce fighting is taking place near the Kremenchag-Zamenka railway line in the Dnieper bend. The general position is the Russians are holding the German onslaught under General Von Manstein on the southern flank of the Kiev bulge and are developing their offensives near Korosten in the north and south of the bulge with continuous success. It is evident the issue of the struggle for the Dnieper line is not yet decided as the German resistance against Russian advance in the southern sector has been tremendously increased and is gaining local victories like Zhitomir; but the Red Army has already achieved general superiority over the long front, and is able to strike at different points simultaneously. In the southern sector the Russian army seeks to push back the German line. stretching now from Zhitomir to Nikepol to a line coterminous with the river Bug, between Nikolayev and Odessa. The Russian army has already put a stop to the German threat towards Kiev, and a new offensive has been launched south of Kremenchug near Cherkassy, threatening the large town of Smyea, while a fresh thrust has been made towards Kherson at the mouth of the Dnieper. In the Central sector of the Russian theatre, Gomel has been recaptured on 26th November by the Red Army from the rear and the Russians are now in full control over the area between the Dnieper and the Priepet rivers.

After the fall of Gomel into Russian hands the immediate threat is now directed against Zhlobin in white Russia, a big junction of the Leningrad-Odessa rail life-line. The Red Army troops under General Rokossovesky are within 10 miles of this city. The Soviet troops are advancing along both sides of the Dnieper to reach Zhlobin. On the east of the river General Rokossovesky's troops are racing at full speed beyond Gomel towards Zhlobin, while in the west of the Dnieper the Red Army has crossed the Berezina river and is within 7 miles of the city. The latest reports indicate a large scale offensive at the northern approaches to the Crimea and a threatening condition for Mozir, the last German stronghold above Korosten. The Germans are also reported to be withdrawing in the Kremenchug area.

Through all the huge mass of details regarding the ebb and tide of the military movements we notice a clear and definite fact standing out in bold relief, the fact that the German army is manifesting an obstinate unwillingness to allow the Russians proceed an inch to the west beyond Kiev. And this unwillingness of the Nazis is not without foundation. From Kiev onwards stretches the area called the Western Ukraine over which Pilsudski had fought the Ukrainians and the Red Troops in 1919 and ultimately annexed it to the Polish State. Following this annexation the Polish Government suppressed the teaching of Ukrainian in the schools, closed the National University and re-established private owners on the big estates which were cultivated by land-hungry peasants on starvation wages. It was in 1940 that the Red Armies marched into Western Ukraine and the people rushed to welcome them, demanding admission to the Soviet Union. They knew what it was to be under the Soviet, because on the other side of the Polish frontier they found there was a significant distinction in the very existence of the people, apart from natural beauty. On the Soviet side the land burgeoned with crops and fruit, herbs and tractors. It was a scene of prosperity, prodigal in richness. On the Polish side of the Ukraine, on the other hand, there was no suggestion of the earth's fullness, and the peasants looked illfed and apathetic. The truth of the matter, therefore, is that it is not merely the German invader that resists in this area, but also the Polish vested interests who had even in 1940 disliked the idea of the absorption of Western Ukraine into Soviet territory. But whatever resistance is offered, the Russian offensive, a rampart of living steel, having once started, has a resting place which is decided on, not by the German, but by the Russian High Command; and having already seen the struggle for the last three years, we may be sure of something stupendous in the calm foresight of the Russians which arranges not only for a sure and certain enemy defeat but for all the consequences of the struggle.

YUGOSLAVIA

General Draja Mihailovitch, the Yugoslav Minister of War announces that the Patriot forces have now gained control of the entire country of Montenegro as well as the whole of Boka Kotoreska beyond the fortress area. Montenegro is the Yugoslav province at the southern end of the Dalmatian coast adjoining the Albanian frontier, while Boka Kotoreska is the strip of Dalmatia lying between Montenegro and the coast round the port of Cattaro. King Peter of Yugoslavia has abolished dictatorship laws in force since the days of his father, King Alexander.

In East Bosnia the railway line from Serajevo to Visegrad has been almost completely destroyed, while very heavy fighting is reported from the coastal areas of Slovenia and Croatia, where German troops have been forced to retire in the direction of Crovenica. Strong

resistance is being offered to German landings on the islands of Kik, Cres and Losinj. Fighting is also in progress in Macedonia and Serbia.

ITALY

The Eighth Army is consolidating positions in the Sangro Valley; but the weather is hampering the operations. General Montgomery holds almost the whole of the fifty-five-mile Sangro river line inland from the Adriatic coast, and is pouring men and supplies across the Sangro into his bridgehead in preparation for the colossal crack he has promised to deal the German winter line. The Fifth Army has advanced 2½ miles north-west of Montaquila. According to *Reuter's* special correspondent, the skies about the Allied bridgehead on the Sangro are filled with swarms of planes as the air offensive is stepped up to blast the Germans from their defences. Bomber formations are sailing over the German lines at regular five-minute intervals, loosening an almost non-stop rain of bombs on gun emplacements, road junctions and fortified buildings. Later reports state that the Allies have established a second bridgehead 14 miles up the Sangro, and that the Eighth Army has launched new attack from the Sangro bridgehead against enemy positions.

OCCUPIED EUROPE

In Austria Catholic priests are joining the growing anti-Hitler movement, where on an average, five to eight patriots are being arrested daily. Many priests have had to pay with their lives for their stand. It seems probable that a unified organization of Austrian patriots will soon come into being. Discussions are reported to be taking place in the Vatican for restoration of Monarchy in Austria.

The situation in Poland is reported to be in a ferment as the Russians push closer to the 1939 Polish frontiers. Russian entry into the former Polish territory is expected to create a near civil war among Polish underground guerillas, as in the case of Yugoslavia and Greece. No doubt White Russian and Ukrainian Guerillas in Eastern Poland, with their slav heritage, would certainly welcome a Soviet occupation, but other parts of Poland are apt to react differently.

ALLIED AIR OFFENSIVE IN EUROPE

The Allied bombers carried out bombing raids over Berlin, Bremen and Frankfurt. Berlin is repeatedly becoming a target of Allied attack, much heavier and much more repeated than in any other German city. According to an eye-witness impression twenty-five to thirty per cent of Berlin has been destroyed in the Royal Air Force raids, and the city looks more or less a gigantic criminal colony. Dr. Goebbels is, however, threatening riprisals against the British who are accused of "attacking peaceful cities under fog and darkness, and raining fire, devastation, sufferings and death on our women and children." According to Britain's Air Chief, Harris, the latest series of smashing raids on Berlin are the opening guns in a battle to pulverise the Reich's nerve-centre. Whatever outward calm exists in Berlin, there is a decided upsetting of the pendulum as can be clearly seen through Goebbels' speech as well as the latest one from Hitler, wherein he exhorted the Germans to be prepared for "victory or death."

CHINA

In the northern Hunan province fighting continues on the outer defences to Changteh. Chinese forces have offered stout resistance to enemy attacks in all directions. Allied planes heavily bombed Shinchiku on the north-west coast of Formosa, which is the first definitely reported raid of this island. This is also the first occasion on which Chinese planes are known to have taken part in any major attack outside the Chinese mainland. In this single operation 47 Japanese planes were destroyed without any loss to the Allies.

In Central China, to the west of Tungtin lake the Chinese forces have won a big victory in Changteh area, and the Japanese here are stated to be retreating in disorder. The Japanese forces were practically encircled around this city, isolated and destroyed. After successfully developing their encircling movement, the Chinese started an offensive against the Japanese invading northern Hunan.

THE PACIFIC

From the Pearl Harbour headquarters Admiral Chester Nimitz announced on November 24 that American troops in the new Allied Central Pacific thrust have occupied the Gilbert Island of Makin, 1,000 miles north-east of Solomons. Truk, the Japanese stronghold in Caroline Islands, 1,000 miles to the west, is now within range of long-distance bombers based on Makin. On the adjacent island of Tarawa, United States Marines have consolidated their positions, while there has been a new Allied landing on Betio Island in the same group. As the Marines and United States Army detachments take a firm hold of these Gilbert atolls, carrier-borne aircraft and Liberators are attacking Japanese bases in Marshall Islands to the north-west. According to Admiral Nimitz, the Gilberts are now securely in Allied hands, and the immediate future will be one of consolidation and preparing for further attacks. The operations in these islands began only the other day. What now remains to be done is only mopping up operations against the Japanese. The object of going to Gilberts was to establish another point of contact with the enemy. It was the Allied air superiority in the Solomons, New Guinea and New Britain that enabled them to advance there, despite limited materials; and Gilberts will provide another base of aerial operations, especially against the mandated Marshall Islands which are now directly threatened. In New Guinea the Australian forces have captured Sattelberg under very difficult operational conditions, and it is regarded as a classic example of skill and courage on the part of Australian infantry.

It is reported that the Japanese are pressing on with their preparation of new defences in depth from Timor as far eastwards as Dutch New Guinea. Airfields of mushroom growth have appeared in the outer perimeter while bases farther away show equal eloquence of development. Allied bombers are constantly meeting new "hot spots" of air interception, but they continue to hold the initiative and keep the Japanese on the defensive. Liberators from North-west Australia are also making regular strikes deep into Japanese-held Netherlands East Indies.

PEACE-FEELERS

Our "Winston" attained his sixty-ninth year on the 30th November, a stage in human life, indicating the decree which old age has obtained against him; but his movements do not show that this decree has been executed. The latest reports about him shows that he was in Cairo in conference with Mr. Roosevelt and Chiang Kai-shek, and his next move was towards some part of Persia in order to meet M. Stalin. This meeting under a Persian sky would be the most historic event of the age, since it was predicted as almost impossible that the American Mohamed should meet the Russian mountain. The discussion that would take place at this historic meeting must centre round the question how and when to end the war, because the tide of war has now turned definitely in favour of the Allies, and it is now left to them to settle the time and manner of ending the struggle. Viewed from this angle the peace-feelers have far greater significance than an ordinary gossip; and the repeated German denials about this provide a cogency for confirmation of this view. Von Papen is not in the Vatican to pray nor is Field Marshal Smuts on indefinite stay in London to assist Mr. Churchill in his administrative work. Dr. Goebbels may rant and rage; Hitler may put up the stoatest resistance against "the international jewery" and the "barbarians of the steppes" in Ukraine and White Russia.

THE PACIFIC SCENE—TWO YEARS AGO AND TO-DAY

(*Continued from page* 13)

To-day, the Japanese naval strength, allowing for all war losses and new construction, is about as follows:—

Battleships.—Ten, including two new 16-inch gun ships, probably named the Yamoto and Musashi, completed since the war began. One more new battleship may be almost completed.

Carriers.—Seven or eight, plus three or four converted auxiliary carriers.

Cruisers.—Thirty to 35 (heavy and light).

Destroyers.—About 75, exclusive of torpedo boats.

Submarines.—Eighty-odd, exclusive of the midget type.

Japan's most serious shortage is not in cruisers, as many erroneous claims of cruiser sinkings might lead one to believe, but in destroyers and, compared with our increasing strength in plane-bearing craft in carriers. Probably some of Japan's new cruisers and possibly some of her new battle-ships are being converted to carriers, but our carriers are being turned out at a far faster rate.

As compared with the Japanese fleet, the American naval strength to-day (in all oceans) is probably, by conservative estimates, about as follows:—

Battleships.—Twenty-one, including eight new 16-inch gun ships.

Carriers.—Twelve to 15, plus dozens of escort and auxiliary carriers and plane transport vessels.

Cruisers.—Fifty to 60 (heavy and light).

Destroyers.—Three hundred to 320, exclusive of torpedo boats.

Submarines.—One hundred and sixty-five to 195.

—"*New York Times.*"

RECRUITING MELA AT JULLUNDUR.—To mark the enrolment by Jullundur area of 40,000 recruits a Mela (festival) was held with the Maharajadhiraj of Patiala as Chief Guest. During the day a further 1,000 recruits enlisted at the Mela. Retired soldiers of the Indian Army were honoured guests.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

24TH NOV.—The King accompanied by the Queen opened the 9th session of the present Parliament. Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee participating in the debate in the House of Commons following the King's speech.

Aircraft of the Bomber Command made another heavy attack on Berlin on Tuesday.

Mr. Richard Law, Minister of State, speaking to the Foreign Press Association said that the Moscow Conference did not establish an Anglo-Russo-Sino-American alliance aimed at dominating the world.

25TH NOV.—General Smuts addressed members of Parliament on "New World."

The British Minister of Information, speaking on American Thanksgiving Day said that Nazi military authorities were searching a way out from defeat.

There was some enemy air activity in south-east Anglia.

The Germans have massed an army of 250,000 in Jutland.

26TH NOV.—British Bombers were over Germany last night. Berlin and Frankfort-on-Main were also bombed.

27TH NOV.—London and some places in south-east England were bombed by German aircraft. Several persons were killed and there was slight damage.

Berlin and Studgart were bombed.

28TH NOV.—Dr. Goebbels speaking on the Allied raids on Berlin threatened Britain with reprisals.

29TH NOV.—Royal Air Force forces went out in force during the night. Mosquitoes of the Bomber Command attacked objectives in western Germany. Bremen was bombed.

There was slight German air activity over Britain.

The German Ambassador Von Papen has arrived at the Vatican according to the Berne correspondent of *Afton Bladet*.

30TH NOV.—The Berlin A.R.P. authorities have asked non-essential population in Berlin to leave the city.

Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, is 69 to-day. Flood of congratulatory messages and parcels began to pour at No. 10, Downing Street, from yesterday.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

25TH NOV.—President Roosevelt made a proclamation on Thanksgiving Day.

The Secretary for War, Mr. Henry L. Stimson told that the responsibility for disciplining General Patton lay with General Eisenhower.

26TH NOV.—Col. Frank Knox, United States Navy Secretary, told a press conference that United States Navy's combatant ships now total 817.

28TH NOV.—Well informed observers in Washington believe that when Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt and Marshall Stalin meet, Mr. Churchill will place before the conference a co-ordinated plan for an assault on the Continent in early spring.

30TH NOV.—A Lisbon message states that Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt and General Chiang Kai-shek have already completed a long conference in Cairo and are now on their way to somewhere in Persia to meet Marshal Stalin.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

24TH NOV.—His Majesty the King in his speech opening the Parliament referred to the hardships in India.

His Excellency Lord Wavell arrived in Lahore and paid visits to military centres.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in a statement in the Council of State said that there are approximately 76,000 Indian prisoners of war in Japanese hands and that they were very badly treated.

25TH NOV.—His Excellency the Viceroy granted interviews to the Punjab Premier, three ministers and other officials.

26TH NOV.—His Excellency the Viceroy visited two villages in Punjab and granted interviews to the Education and Public Works Department Ministers.

Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy, opened the new Gunnery School H.M.I.S. *Himalaya*, at Karachi.

Members of the non-official delegation sent by the Government of India to undertake a tour in Britain and America to speak on India's war effort, reached London.

27TH NOV.—His Excellency the Viceroy arrived at Peshawar.

Sir Archibald Rowlands, Adviser to His Excellency the Viceroy on War Administration, arrived in New Delhi and took charge of his office.

28TH NOV.—His Excellency Lord Wavell rode on horseback and visited some North-West Frontier villages where the Mohamands offered the services of 20,000 armed men for prosecution of the war.

Enemy aircraft attacked Feni district in East Bengal.

29TH NOV.—His Excellency the Viceroy visited a number of military centres in Peshawar.

General Sir Alan Fleming Hartley, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, is shortly resigning pending retirement.

Enemy bombers attacked this afternoon airfields in Eastern Bengal. Very slight damage was caused. Two enemy aircraft were shot down and four damaged.

30TH NOV.—His Excellency the Viceroy returned to New Delhi.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

24TH NOV.—Inside the Dnieper Bend Soviet troops captured Anufrievka and other inhabited localities; progress towards Zuamenka and Nikopol was kept up; the Red army steadily penetrated the whole triangle between Dnieper and Pripet rivers.

25TH NOV.—The Germans have been fought to a standstill north and east of Zhetomir; fierce fighting took place near the Kremenchug-Zuamenka railway line; in the Gomel area bitter fighting continued.

Hungarian troops have been sent to southern Poland to guard the possible Russian line of approach.

26TH NOV.—Gomel, the great enemy fortress on the White Russian front, which has been in German hands for two years, has fallen to Soviet troops.

27TH NOV.—The Red army troops were within 15 miles of Zhlobin. At Nikopol and in the Dnieper bend the Russians launched new attacks. Heavy fighting continued in Cherkassy area.

28TH NOV.—Fierce battles raged at the Nikopol bridgehead, in the Great Dnieper bend and west of Kiev. Russian columns have encircled Mozir.

29TH NOV.—The Russians launched a large-scale offensive at the northern approaches to Crimea. South of Kremenchug the Russians intensified their attack. The Soviet forces have occupied 40 localities north-west of Gomel.

30TH NOV.—Soviet forces closed in on Zhlobin. Russian troops threatened Smyea. German lines in Gomel area were pushed back several miles.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

24TH NOV.—The Eighth Army captured Alfedena and San Angelo and progressed all along its front. General Montgomery's troops reached Sangro river.

25TH NOV.—The Eighth Army crossed the Sangro river and secured a bridgehead. The weather continued to be bad.

The Republican Fascist Cabinet has named Italian State as Italian Social Republic.

26TH NOV.—Cold weather continued. There were exchanges of artillery fire on the Fifth Army front and little change on the Eighth Army Sector. The American 45th division reached Italy.

27TH NOV.—The Eighth Army bridgehead north of Sangro has been extended and improved. Enemy counter-attacks against Fifth Army positions were thrown back.

The Under-Secretaries, Professor Epicarmo Carbino, Signor Vitto Realli, and Signor Grovanni Cumom notified Marshal Badoglio that they would resign unless the statement recently made by the Under-Secretary for Information Professor Gundo Pazzi were disavowed.

28TH NOV.—General Montgomery is preparing for a big attack. In a message he says "The time has now come to drive the Germans northwards of Rome."

Badoglio's Council of Ministers has evolved a six-point programme for the treatment of Fascists.

29TH NOV.—The Allies have established a second bridgehead 14 miles up the Sangro. Heavy fighting continued. General Montgomery has launched a new attack and the Eighth Army's offensive was against the 65th German infantry division.

30TH NOV.—General Montgomery's troops have seized Moszzagrogna. The Fifth Army took the important town of Castel Nuovo.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

24TH NOV.—General Catroux during his visit to the Lebanese President told him officially of the decision of the French Committee of National Liberation to permit the Lebanese to resume their constitutional life.

Lord Branborne said, in the House of Lords that the Lebanese Ministers have resumed their functions.

Toulon was bombed by Flying Fortresses.

Targets in Albania were bombed by the Allied planes.

Bulgaria's capital Sofia was bombed by Allied Liberators.

The Rumanian Government had decided to evacuate the Rumanian capital and other important towns.

General DeGaulle claimed that the French Committee of National Liberation was in fact the Government of the French Republic.

25TH NOV.—The situation is normal in Lebanon. The President, Premier and the Ministers are now back at their offices. The Lebanese Parliament met.

26TH NOV.—Allied bombers attacked Calais.

Prompt action by General Catroux averted a new and dangerous crisis which threatened to ruin the agreement in the Lebanon.

27TH NOV.—Objectives in Northern France were attacked by British bombers.

28TH NOV.—A wave of mass strikes in industrial Lyons region of France is paralysing industries working for Germany.

The President and Premier of Lebanon declared that their country was already independent. General Catroux reached Damascus.

29TH NOV.—The Lebanese Premier, RaidelSolh said that new Franco-Lebanese talks would begin soon.

Royal Air Force Masquitoes attacked airfields in France and Holland.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

26TH NOV.—Prime Minister Antonio DeOliveria Salayar reported to the National Assembly of Portugal on the Azores agreement and the situation in Jap-occupied Portuguese Timor.

27TH NOV.—Reports from Bogota state the Columban Senate have approved a statement recognizing the existence of a state of belligerency with Germany.

Severe earthquake shocks were felt throughout Central Turkey and thousands were killed.

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THE FAR EAST

24TH NOV.—American troops have occupied the Gilbert island of Makin. Allied forces landed on Betro island and captured it. Admiral Chester Nimity made a statement on the situation in Pacific. Allied planes heavily bombed 11 Japanese centres including Gasmata in New Britain and a 7,000-ton Jap freighter off Kavieng was also hit. In the northern Hunan province fighting continued on the outer defences to Changteh.

25TH NOV.—Four Japanese destroyers were sunk and one damaged in the Northern Solomons. At Augusta Bay the Allies extended their jungle holdings. An 8,000-ton Jap merchant-ship was sunk off Halmahara. Mopping up operations on Tarawa, Makin and Abenama were virtually complete.

26TH NOV.—United States submarines have sunk 9 enemy vessels.

Allied aircraft raided Formosa island, 90 miles off the coast of China on Thursday. Oil installations were damaged. Chinese planes also participated in this the first raid on Formosa.

27TH NOV.—Australian forces have captured Sattelberg in New Guinea. Allied planes damaged two Jap cruisers in New Britain—New Ireland Sector.

29TH NOV.—Chinese have won a big victory in Changteh area of Central China.

The Japanese in the Solomons had another hammering by Allied aircraft. Buka was the main target.

30TH NOV.—Allied bombers attacked Wewak. Australian jungle troops closed in on Bonger, north-east of Sattelberg.

LAST MONTH . . .

1ST NOV.—The Soviet forces captured Perekop, the last land exit to the enemy from Crimea.

2ND NOV.—American forces invaded Bougainville, the largest and the last Jap bastion in Solomons. Empress Augusta Bay was occupied.

4TH NOV.—The Allies captured Isernia in Italy.

Russian troops captured Aleshki.

6TH NOV.—Troops of the First Ukranian Front captured Kiev, the capital of Ukraine.

9TH NOV.—The Red Army occupied Kerch.

22ND NOV.—Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the Allied Military Chiefs began their five days' conference in Cairo.

24TH NOV.—American Troops occupied Tarawa, Makin and Betio islands in Central Pacific.

26TH NOV.—Soviet troops captured Gomel.

27TH NOV.—Australian Forces captured Sattelberg in New Guinea.

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